

STATE OF IDAHO
Department of Fish and Game

Joseph C. Greenley, Director

Quarterly Project Progress Report
CLEARWATER RIVER DEVELOPMENT OF
SPRING CHINOOK STOCKS

Project No. 88E25032

Contract No. 03-6-208-35443

Period Covered: October 1 to December 31, 1976

Columbia River Fisheries Development Program

January, 1977

Clearwater River Development of Spring Chinook Stocks

ABSTRACT:

Indian Creek incubation channel received a total of 1,613,383 eyed chinook eggs including October's plants. The total Clearwater River system received 2,381,743 eyed chinook eggs. Eye-up at Sweetwater Eyeing Station was 88 percent. Channel tenders were hired to monitor all three incubation channels. The lack of moisture and early low temperatures caused problems at all channels during late November.

REPORT OF PROGRESS:

For the first time in three years no chinook eggs were obtained from out of state sources. All spring chinook eggs were from adults captured and spawned at Rapid River Hatchery. Approximately 2,860,000 green eggs were received at Sweetwater Eyeing Station from Rapid River Hatchery. We planted 2,381,735 eyed eggs from Sweetwater for an 88 percent eye-up. Three women were hired to clean trays and pick off dead eggs at Sweetwater. A Complete summary of eyed eggs planted in Region 2 is contained in Table 1.

Table 1. Eyed chinook egg plants in the Clearwater River system, 1976

Channel	Date	Number	Hatchery
Indian Creek	September 27	355,818	Sweetwater
Indian Creek	October 5	714,355	Sweetwater
Indian Creek	October 7	<u>543,210</u>	Sweetwater
	Total	1,613,383	
Crooked River	September 30	485,735	Sweetwater
Red River	October 2	<u>282,625</u>	Sweetwater
	Grand Total	2,381,743	

In addition to the eggs planted in incubation channels, we also received 1,000,000 green chinook eggs for rearing to feeding fry at Mullan Hatchery. These eggs were from Rapid River stock and will be released in the upper Lochsa drainage in June of 1977 or when access is available.

Channel tenders were hired to monitor flows at all three channels. The Red River and Crooked River tenders duties commenced on October 1 and the tender at Indian Creek started on December 1. This year the Indian Creek tender is

hired to observe the channel until June 15, 1977. The tender is staying at the channel and has no other duties. She was at the channel earlier than required, the middle of November, when the temperature dropped unexpectedly to below zero. Apparently the water level dropped about six inches in only a few hours. The tender could not hear flowing water and upon checking found the channel nearly dry. She quickly diverted more flows into the channel, but estimated no flows were present for more than an hour. An intragravel check after flows were resumed produced no dead alevins and numerous alive. My subsequent investigations also found no dead alevins and numerous alive. It seems the mortalities must have been minimal and we were fortunate she was available. During the same cold spell, the channel tenders at both the other channels had similar difficulties. Record low rainfall and no snow covering caused the main streams to nearly freeze dry and almost the total flow from the West Fork of Red River was diverted through the channel and even then, spots of the channel froze dry. Conditions did not improve the rest of the quarter and by the end of December we still had very little snow and temperatures remained cold.

Submitted by:

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